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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/500,755	02/08/2000	Mehdi Asnaashari	38979-71US	3031

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EXAMINER

WHIPKEY, JASON T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2612

DATE MAILED: 05/21/2004

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/500,755

Applicant(s)

ASNAASHARI, MEHDI

Examiner

Jason T. Whipkey

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 16-20 and 26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9-15 and 21-25 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 February 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2,3,4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement filed March 19, 2004, fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each U.S. and foreign patent, each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed, and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.

Copies of references that have a line through them have not been supplied to the Office and therefore cannot be considered.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 19 is objected to because of a typographical error.

On lines 2-3, "the digital computer" should read -- the digital camera --.

Appropriate correction is required.

3. Claim 23 is objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(a) for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 23 recites the limitation "the application interface" on line 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For examination purposes, the claim will be treated as if it reads, "an application interface".

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4. Claim 26 is objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(a) for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 26 recites the limitation “the digital camera between a digital camera” on line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For examination purposes, the claim will be treated as if it reads, “a digital camera between the digital camera”.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Terasaki (U.S. Patent No. 6,292,863).

Terasaki discloses a PC card, as shown in Figure 4. As described in column 1, lines 43-48, a PC card can be used to transfer digital image information between a digital still camera and a PC. The PC card connects to the digital still camera through a traditional PCMCIA interface (column 2, lines 2-4 and 58-65, and column 4, lines 4-6). Flash memories 41-1 through 41-3

store data that the card receives (column 13, lines 35-36). Data stored on the card is transferred to a desktop PC through USB physical layer interface 43 (column 13, lines 30-34).

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-3 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Terasaki.

Regarding claim 1, Terasaki discloses a PC card, as shown in Figure 4. As described in column 1, lines 43-48, a PC card can be used to transfer digital image information between a digital still camera and a PC. The PC card connects to the digital still camera through a traditional PCMCIA interface 42 (column 2, lines 2-4 and 58-65, and column 4, lines 4-6). Flash memories 41-1 through 41-3 store data that the card receives (column 13, lines 35-36). Data stored on the card is transferred to a desktop PC through USB physical layer interface 43 (column 13, lines 30-34).

Terasaki is silent with regard to what the computer does with the received images.

Official Notice is taken that computers are frequently used to view, edit, and reproduce images captured by a digital camera. Advantages to using a computer for viewing, editing, and

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reproducing images captured by a digital camera are that a large number of images may be stored for viewing, editing is easier with a keyboard and mouse, which are not typically included with a digital camera, and images may be printed so that they may be viewed away from the computer. For these reasons, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the computer described by Terasaki used to view, edit, and reproduce captured images.

Regarding claims 2 and 3, PC card 40 is connected to desktop PC using a Universal Serial Bus interface 44.

Regarding claim 17, Terasaki discloses a PC card, as shown in Figure 4. As described in column 1, lines 43-48, a PC card can be used to transfer digital image information between a digital still camera and a computer. Flash controller 46 ("a controller") controls the receipt of images from the camera via PC card physical layer interface 42 ("a first interface") to flash memories 41-1 through 41-3 and from the flash memories to the personal computer via USB physical interface 43 ("a second interface").

Terasaki is silent with regard to what the computer does with the received images.

Official Notice is taken that computers are frequently used to view, edit, and reproduce images captured by a digital camera. Advantages to using a computer for viewing, editing, and reproducing images captured by a digital camera are that a large number of images may be stored for viewing, editing is easier with a keyboard and mouse, which are not typically included with a digital camera, and images may be printed so that they may be viewed away from the computer. For these reasons, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

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invention was made to have the computer described by Terasaki used to view, edit, and reproduce captured images.

9. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Terasaki in view of Silverbrook (U.S. Patent No. 5,914,737).

Claim 4 may be treated like claim 3. Additionally, Terasaki teaches that the PC card has a PC card interface based on the PCMCIA standard (column 13, lines 18-19). However, Terasaki is silent with regard to the PC card connection being a parallel connection.

Silverbrook discloses a printer that receives PCMCIA cards from digital cameras. As stated in column 31, lines 50-51, PCMCIA card slots are parallel connections. An advantage to transferring data using a parallel connection is that multiple bits may be transferred simultaneously, thus increasing throughput. For this reason, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to provide a parallel connection on the PC card.

10. Claims 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Terasaki in view of Silverbrook and further in view of Lin (U.S. Patent No. 6,427,186).

Claim 5 may be treated like claim 4. However, Terasaki is silent with regard to the digital camera interface being a PCMCIA/CF interface.

Lin discloses a memory card with a host interface 108 that complies with PCMCIA ATA and CF interface standards. An advantage to providing an interface that complies with multiple standards is that the memory card may be compatible with a variety of other systems. For this

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reason, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have Terasaki's PC card include a PCMCIA and CF interface.

Regarding claim 6, Terasaki shows in Figure 4 that USB interface 44 and PCMCIA ATA interface 45 (which together comprise "an interface module") perform serial/parallel conversion and receive digital data from PC card physical layer interface 42 ("a PCMCIA interface") (column 14, lines 33-38).

Regarding claim 7, Terasaki teaches that PC card 1 outputs data to computer 10 using the USB standard (column 7, lines 40-46).

Regarding claim 8, Terasaki shows in Figure 4 that flash memories 41-1 through 41-3 are coupled to PC card physical later interface 42 ("a PCMCIA interface") and USB interface 44/PCMCIA ATA interface 45 ("an interface module").

11. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Terasaki in view of Oguro (U.S. Patent No. 6,718,118).

Claim 16 may be treated like claim 1. However, Terasaki is silent with regard to showing an icon on a computer screen when the PC card is coupled to the computer.

Oguro discloses a signal converter 1 ("a computer") with monitor 5 that displays icon 102 on the screen if the system detects the presence of PC card 9 (column 8, lines 60-66). An advantage to displaying an icon on a screen when a PC card is connected to a computer is that a user can visually verify that a successful connection has been made. For this reason, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the computer connected to Terasaki's PC card to display an icon when a connection is detected.

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12. Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Terasaki in view of Lin.

Claim 18 may be treated like claim 17. Additionally, Terasaki teaches that the PC card connects to desktop PC 10 via USB (column 7, lines 40-46). However, Terasaki is silent with regard to the digital camera interface being a PCMCIA/CF interface.

Lin discloses a memory card with a host interface 108 that complies with PCMCIA ATA and CF interface standards. An advantage to providing an interface that complies with multiple standards is that the memory card may be compatible with a variety of other systems. For this reason, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have Terasaki's PC card include a PCMCIA and CF interface.

Regarding claim 19, as shown in Figure 4, Terasaki's PC card includes PCMCIA ATA interface 45 ("a first interface module") for handling communication between the card and the digital camera, USB interface 44 ("a second module") for handling communication between the card and the computer, and a group of components ("a third module") consisting of PCMCIA ATA interface 45, flash controller 46, and IDE interface 47, which function to transfer image data to flash memories 41-1 to 41-3.

13. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Terasaki in view of Lin and further in view of Oguro.

Claim 20 may be treated like claim 19. However, Terasaki is silent with regard to showing an icon on a computer screen when the PC card is coupled to the computer.

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Oguro discloses a signal converter 1 ("a computer") with monitor 5 that displays icon 102 on the screen if the system detects the presence of PC card 9 (column 8, lines 60-66). An advantage to displaying an icon on a screen when a PC card is connected to a computer is that a user can visually verify that a successful connection has been made. For this reason, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the computer connected to Terasaki's PC card to display an icon when a connection is detected.

Allowable Subject Matter

14. Claims 9-15 and 21-25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding each of these claims, no prior art could be located that teaches or fairly suggests a memory card connectable to a digital camera via a PCMCIA/CF interface and to a personal computer via a USB interface, wherein a common logic block transfers digital images between a flash memory and (a) an interface module, and (b) a PCMCIA interface.

Conclusion

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason T. Whipkey, whose telephone number is (703) 305-1819.

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The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. eastern daylight time, alternating Fridays off.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy R. Garber, can be reached on (703) 305-4929. The fax phone number for the organization where this application is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JTW

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May 17, 2004


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